

Claims:

1. A blade tensioner for applying tension to a chain, the blade tensioner comprising:

5 a blade shoe having a first face and an opposing second face, the first face having a chain sliding surface on which the chain is slidable;

at least two adjacent blade springs disposed on the second face of the blade shoe for applying a spring
10 force to the blade shoe, the adjacent blade springs having surfaces contacting in sliding engagement; and

a friction surface provided between the contact surfaces of the adjacent blade springs having a coefficient of friction selected to provide sliding resistance
15 therebetween effective to damp vibrations of the tensioner.

2. A blade tensioner in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the friction surface comprises a plate-like member extending in the length direction of the blade
20 springs and is provided independently from the blade springs.

3. A blade tensioner in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the friction surface comprises a plate-like
25 member extending in the length direction of the blade springs and attached to at least one blade spring through bonding or welding.

4. A blade tensioner in accordance with Claim
30 1, wherein the friction surface comprises a plurality of members extending in the length direction of the blade springs and attached to at least one blade spring through bonding or welding.

5. A blade tensioner in accordance with Claim
35 2, wherein bumpy surfaces are created on contact faces between the friction surface and at least one blade spring.

6. A blade tensioner in accordance with Claim 3, wherein bumpy surfaces are created on contact faces between the friction surface and at least one blade spring.

5 7. A blade tensioner in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the friction parts are configured using rubber, plastic, or friction paper.

10 8. A blade tensioner in accordance with Claim 2, wherein the friction parts are configured using rubber, plastic, or friction paper.

15 9. A blade tensioner in accordance with Claim 3, wherein the friction parts are configured using rubber, plastic, or friction paper.

20 10. A blade tensioner in accordance with Claim 4, wherein the friction parts are configured using rubber, plastic, or friction paper.

11. A blade tensioner in accordance with Claim 5, wherein the friction parts are configured using rubber, plastic, or friction paper.

25 12. A set of spring blades for urging a blade shoe against a chain to apply tension to the chain, the set of spring blades comprising:

a first blade spring having an upper and a lower planar surface;

30 a second blade spring having an upper and a lower planar surface disposed below the first blade spring, the lower planar surface of the first blade spring and the upper planar surface of the second blade spring in sliding engagement; and

35 a friction surface provided between the lower planar surface of the first blade spring and the upper planar surface of the second blade spring having a coefficient of friction selected to provide sliding

resistance therebetween effective to damp vibrations of the tensioner.

13. A set of blade springs according to Claim 12
5 wherein the friction surface is formed on at least one of the blade springs.

14. A set of blade springs according to Claim 12
wherein the friction surface comprises a friction plate
10 disposed between the blade springs.

15. A set of blade springs according to Claim 14
wherein the friction plate is attached to at least one of the blade springs.

16. A set of blade springs according to Claim 12
wherein the friction surface comprises a plurality of transverse members disposed between the blade springs.

17. A set of blade springs according to Claim 16
wherein at least one of the plurality of transverse members is attached to at least one of the blade springs.

18. A set of blade springs according to Claim 12
25 wherein the blade shoe comprises a chain sliding face against which the chain is slidable, wherein the blade springs are disposed between slots formed on a face of the blade shoe opposite the chain sliding face.

19. A set of blade springs according to Claim 18
30 wherein a base is provided for pivotably mounting a first end of the blade shoe.

20. A set of blade springs according to Claim 19
35 wherein a second end of the blade shoe is freely slidable upon the base.

21. A method of applying tension to a chain with

a blade tensioner, the method comprising:

providing a base having a sliding surface formed thereon;

5 pivotably attaching a first portion of a blade shoe to the base, the blade shoe having a chain sliding face and an opposing face opposite the chain sliding face, the blade shoe having a second portion slidable upon the base sliding surface;

10 biasing the blade shoe against the chain with at least two adjacent blade springs disposed on the opposing face of the blade shoe, the adjacent blade springs having contact surfaces in sliding engagement;

15 damping vibrations of the tensioner with a friction surface provided between the contact surfaces of the adjacent blade springs providing a coefficient of friction therebetween.

22. A method of applying tension to a chain according to Claim 21, including forming the friction surface on the contact surface of at least one of the adjacent blade springs.

23. A method of applying tension to a chain according to Claim 21, including forming the friction surface on a friction plate disposed between the contact surfaces of the adjacent blade springs.

24. A method of applying tension to a chain according to Claim 23, including attaching the friction plate to at least one of the contact surfaces of the adjacent blade springs.

25. A method of applying tension to a chain according to Claim 21, wherein the friction surface comprises a plurality of transverse members disposed between the contact surfaces of the adjacent blade springs.

26. A method of applying tension to a chain

according to Claim 25, wherein at least one of the plurality of transverse members is attached to at least one of the contact surfaces of the adjacent blade springs.

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